

**ARKANSAS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

**Post Office Box 2981  
Little Rock, AR 72203**

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ISSUANCE NUMBER PY 03-29**

**Sandra Winston, Director**

**June 18, 2004**

**TO:** All Local Office Area Managers

**SUBJECT:** Certification Regarding Eligibility to Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance

1. **Purpose:** To provide information about the Certification of Trade Adjustment Assistance for **PRADCO, FORT SMITH, AR.**
2. **General Information:** The Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance issued a Certification on **May 21, 2004.** Employees of this company are eligible to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance under the Trade Act of 2002. Below is the information concerning the TAA Certification.

<b>PRADCO, FORT SMITH, AR</b>	
Petition Filing Date:	March 11, 2004
Petition Number:	TAW-54489
Impact Date:	March 11, 2003
Certification Date:	May 21, 2004
Termination Date:	May 21, 2004

A Legal Notice announcing the Certification will run in a newspaper of general circulation. Employees and former employees will be mailed letters requesting that they contact their nearest local office concerning benefits available under the Trade Act of 2002. WIA staff will be advised to coordinate training activities with ESD. Local Office Managers shall ensure that adversely affected workers are offered the full range of employability services such as counseling, testing, training, job referral, placement, job-search, job relocation assistance and TRA.

3. **Action Required:** Please notify the appropriate members of your staff regarding the contents of this memorandum and coordinate training activities with the WIA Provider..
4. **Inquiries:** Direct any questions concerning this memorandum to the TAA Unit at (501) 371-1009.
5. **Attachment:** Certification for **PRADCO, FORT SMITH, AR**
6. **Expiration Date:** May 21, 2006

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

TA-W-54,489

PLASTIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
A SUBSIDIARY OF EBSCO INDUSTRIES, INC.  
FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

Certification Regarding Eligibility  
To Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance  
And Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance

In accordance with Section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 USC 2273), the Department of Labor herein presents the results of its investigation regarding certification of eligibility to apply for worker adjustment assistance.

In order to make an affirmative determination and issue a certification of eligibility to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance, the group eligibility requirements in either paragraph (a)(2)(A) or (a)(2)(B) of Section 222 of the Trade Act must be met. It is determined in this case that the requirements of (a)(2)(B) of Section 222 have been met.

The investigation was initiated March 12, 2004 in response to a petition filed by a state agency representative on behalf of workers at Plastic Research and Development Corporation (Pradco), a subsidiary of EBSCO Industries, Inc., Fort Smith, Arkansas. The workers produce fishing lures.

The investigation revealed that employment at the subject facility decreased absolutely during the period 2002-2003 and January to March 2003-2004.

Furthermore, the investigation revealed that the preponderance of declines in employment at the subject firm is related to a shift in production of fishing lures to China during January through March 2004 and actual increase in imports during this same time period.

In addition, In order for the Department to issue a certification of eligibility to apply for ATAA, the group eligibility requirements of Section 246 of the Trade Act must be met. The Department has determined in this case that the requirements of Section 246 have been met.

A significant number of workers at the firm are age 50 or over and possess skills that are not easily transferable within the local commuting area. Additionally, competitive conditions within the industry are adverse.

### Conclusion

After careful review of the facts obtained in the investigation, I determine that there was a shift in production from the workers firm or subdivision to China of articles that are like or directly competitive with those produced by the subject firm or subdivision, and there has been or is likely to be an increase in imports of like or directly competitive

articles. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, I make the following certification:

"All workers of Plastic Research and Development Corporation, a subsidiary of EBSCO Industries, Inc., Fort Smith, Arkansas, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after March 11, 2003 through two years from the date of certification are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974 and are also eligible to apply for alternative trade adjustment assistance under Section 246 of the Trade Act of 1974."

Signed in Washington, D. C. this 21st day of May, 2004.

/s/ Richard Church

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RICHARD CHURCH  
Certifying Officer, Division of  
Trade Adjustment Assistance